**Increase in oral diseases**

3703. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of oral diseases are increasing in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating the number of patients suffering from dental and other oral diseases in the country during the last three years, year-wise, and

(c) the action Government have taken to make the vast population of the country conscious about the danger of oral diseases and to formulate strict oral health regulations for the prevention of dental and other oral diseases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (c) No Nationwide study has been conducted to determine the number of Indian population suffering from dental and other oral diseases. However, according to AIMS few isolated studies are available which indicate high prevalence of dental caries to the extent of 80% in children and 40-50% in adults. The periodontal disease are prevalent to the extent of 90-95% whereas, malocclusion is present in 30% of school going children. A National Oral Health Care Programme has already been launched. In order to sensitize the Dental professionals about the need to prevent dental diseases in the country, various workshops have been held in the first phase and in the second phase, the training of dental surgeons and health workers has been planned.

**Synthetic nutrients in the food of children, pregnant women etc.**

3704. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that synthetic nutrients particularly Vitamin-A are used in the food of children, pregnant women and lactating mothers;

(b) whether it is also a fact that leading experts are expressing concern over health hazards caused by the use of such food with large dose of Vitamin-A; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) No food regularly consumed by rural population

has synthetic Vitamin-A. Under Integrated Child Development Services Scheme, only organic food items such as Khichdi, bread, biscuit, food items made from jaggery etc. are used for distribution among children, pregnant and lactating mothers. However for prophylactic purposes, children in the age group of 9 months to 3 years are given five doses of Vitamin-A at six month intervals under a programme administered by the Department of Family Welfare.

(b) Regular consumption of large quantities of Vitamin-A (Pharmacological high doses) is known to produce toxicity. However, enrichment of food is done with Vitamin-A in quantities to ensure adequate daily requirements, usually 25.53% of requirement is added to foods.

(c) In view of 'b' above does not arise.

**Posts lying vacant in various hospitals in Delhi**

†3705. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of posts of various categories lying vacant in the various hospitals in Delhi as on 31st July, 2001 and since when these posts are lying vacant;

(b) the details of action taken by Government, so far, to fill these vacant posts; and

(c) by when all the vacant posts are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Favour in Appointments by DG (Health)**

3706. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN :

MISS MABEL REBELLO :

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that DG(Health) has favoured his people by appointing them in various posts in his Ministry;

(b) whether it is also a fact that all the officials like DDGs have CBI cases pending against them; and

(c) the action Government are proposing to take against the DG?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.